

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 PRS-01 DODE-00 PM-03

SP-02 INR-05 L-01 H-03 /039 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:JDFORBES:SPB

APPROVED BY EA/K:DODONOHUE

D - MPENDLETON

S/S -O: P.SHANKLE

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R 230430Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146764

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, KS

SUBJECT:KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN CALL ON DEPUTY SECRE-
TARY

1. FOUR ROK ASSEMBLYMEN ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR HAHM
PAID COURTESY CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL JUNE
20. GROUP WAS HEADED BY DEFENSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
CHOI YOUNG-HI. CHOI EXPLAINED HE IS HEADING GROUP OF
SIX ASSEMBLYMEN, ALL VETERANS OF KOREAN WAR, VISITING
WASHINGTON TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION WITH US CONGRESSMEN.
MEMBERS OF GROUP HAVE MET WITH SOME EIGHTY SENATORS
AND REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING CONGRESSMAN FRASER AND
OTHER CRITICS OF INTERNAL ROKG POLICIES. ASSEMBLYMAN
JUNG NAE-HIUK STATED FRASER HAD EXPLAINED HIS CONVIC-
TION THAT CONTINUED INTERNAL REPRESSION IN KOREA MAY
EVENTUALLY LEAD TO US FORCE WITHDRAWAL.

2. DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL STRESSED IMPORTANCE
OF OUR SECURITY TIES WITH ROK. ALSO POINTED OUT
PROBLEM OF US CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD
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KOREA. US CONGRESSMEN FULLY APPRECIATE KOREAN

SECURITY SITUATION AND DO NOT WISH TO GIVE NORTH KOREA
WRONG SIGNALS. HOWEVER, THERE IS INCREASING CONGRES-
SIONAL CONCERN OVER THE ROK INTERNAL SITUATION AND THE
NEED FOR SOME EASING BY THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT.

3. DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL ASSURED GROUP THAT US
FIRMLY SUPPORTS ROK AND OUR PRESENT SECURITY RELATIONSHIP.
HE STATED WE ARE WORKING HARD TO DEFEND OUR PROGRAMS
BEFORE CONGRESS. AT SAME TIME, HE NOTED ASSEMBLYMEN
SHOULD CARRY BACK TO SEOUL MOST ACCURATE READING POSSIBLE
OF US CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN OVER KOREAN INTERNAL
SITUATION. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL SECURITY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE146764
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JDFOBES:SPB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750217-0539
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750624/aaaaavuq.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN CALL ON DEPUTY SECRE- TARY
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, KS, US, (INGERSOLL, ROBERT S), (CHOI YOUNG-HI)
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006